

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 2 a. retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as search
 - 3 criteria;
 - 4 b. clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts related to the entity;
 - 5 c. retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one
 - 6 information source;
 - 7 d. selecting features from the information retrieved at steps a and c to identify concepts
 - 8 associated with the entity within each identified context; and
 - 9 e. structuring the identified concepts within each context.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of structuring the identified concepts is
 - 2 done by classifying the concepts into at least one of a set comprising of concepts that are
 - 3 exclusive to the entity, a set comprising of concepts that are exclusive to the identified
 - 4 context, a set comprising of concepts that are common to both entity and the identified
 - 5 context but more representative of the entity, and a set comprising of concepts that are
 - 6 common to both the entity and the identified context but more representative of the identified
 - 7 context.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of ranking the concepts within
 - 2 each set.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of presenting top ranked
 - 2 concepts within each set.
- 1 5. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:

- 2 a. identifying contexts associated with the entity;
- 3 b. retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one
- 4 information source;
- 5 c. selecting features from the retrieved information to identify concepts associated with the
- 6 entity within each identified context; and
- 7 d. structuring the identified concepts within each context.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by finding prominent
2 nodes, that contain the entity, in an ontology or a taxonomy.

1 7. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by using at least one of
2 synonyms, hypernyms, hyponyms, and meronyms of the entity found in a thesaurus.

1 8. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by finding a set of the
2 words or phrases that occur frequently with the entity and that mutually do not appear
3 together in documents in the information source.

1 9. A system for profiling an entity, the system comprising:

- 2 a. means for retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as
- 3 search criteria;
- 4 b. means for clustering the retrieved information in order to identify contexts related to the
- 5 entity;
- 6 c. means for retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least
- 7 one information source;
- 8 d. means for selecting features from the retrieved information in order to identify concepts
- 9 associated with the entity within each identified context; and

10 e. means for structuring the identified concepts within each context.

1 10. The system as recited in claim 9 wherein the means for structuring the identified concepts
2 comprises:

3 a. means for classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to each entity-context
4 pair; and

5 b. means for ranking the concepts within each set.

1 11. The system as recited in claim 10 further comprising means for presenting top ranked
2 concepts within each set.

1 12. A computer program product for profiling an entity, the computer program product
2 comprising:

3 a. program instruction means for retrieving information from at least one information source
4 using the entity as search criteria;

5 b. program instruction means for clustering the retrieved information in order to identify
6 contexts related to the entity;

7 c. program instruction means for retrieving information corresponding to each identified
8 context from at least one information source;

9 d. program instruction means for selecting features from the retrieved information in order to
10 identify concepts associated with the entity within each identified context; and

11 e. program instruction means for structuring the identified concepts within each context.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12 wherein the program instruction means
2 for structuring the identified concepts comprises:

3 a. program instruction means for classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to
4 each entity-context pair; and

5 b. program instruction means for ranking the concepts within each set.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13 further comprising program instruction
2 means for presenting top ranked concepts within each set.

1 15. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:

2 a. retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as search
3 criteria;

4 b. clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts;

5 c. retrieving information corresponding to the entity and each identified context from at least
6 one information source;

7 d. selecting features from the retrieved information to identify concepts associated with the
8 entity within each identified context;

9 e. classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to each identified entity context
10 pair;

11 f. ranking the concepts within each set; and

12 g. presenting top ranked concepts within each set.

1 16. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein the concepts are classified into at least one of a set
2 comprising of concepts that are exclusive to the entity, a set comprising of concepts that are
3 exclusive to the identified context, a set comprising of concepts that are common to both
4 entity and the identified context but more representative of the entity, and a set comprising of
5 concepts that are common to both the entity and the identified context but more representative
6 of the identified context.